MERCURY BAY GAME FISHING CLUB (INC)

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GARMIN TRAILER BOAT TOURNAMENT

Fri 5th – Sun 7th FEBRUARY 2027
(Waitangi Weekend)

RULES

WELCOME TO THE 2027

GARMIN®
TRAILER BOAT TOURNAMENT

1. GENERAL

The purpose of this tournament is to make sure you all have a good time and an equal chance to win some excellent prizes.

To that purpose we have a set of rules. Please read them and make sure you understand them. If there are any matters that need clarification please note them and ask at the briefing.

Any matters not specifically covered by these rules will be covered by IGFA rules, NZSFC rules, MBGFC Fishing Rules and/or at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.

ENTRY and registration in the tournament constitutes acceptance of the rules by **ALL** participants, and an agreement to abide by **ALL** judges decisions.

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to amend the rules, should it be deemed necessary in the interest of the Tournament.

Competitors participate in the tournament at their own risk. MBGFC does not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the tournament. Leaving port is at the sole discretion of the skipper and crew at all times.

2. ELIGIBILTY

All anglers must be current financial members of Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club Inc (MBGFC) or an affiliated NZSFC Club. Proof must be provided. Day membership to MBGFC will suffice.

Trailer boats must be launched from a trailer. Jetskis, Sealegs and Kayaks are eligible.

NOTE: A commercial vessel (Trailer boat) must provide a particular approval form under Section 111(1)(a) of the Fisheries Act for the Tournament dates to the Club office before going fishing. **Fishing in is NOT permitted.**

3. ENTRY, REGISTRATION & BRIEFING:

Entry and registration are two separate steps. Entry is completed beforehand to enter the competition. Registration takes place at the MBGFC Clubrooms on Thursday 4th February from midday, where entered anglers can check in and confirm their participation and collect the tournament paperwork. The competition briefing will be held at 7:30pm sharp at the Clubrooms.

At least one team representative MUST attend, and all team members are urged to attend to give sponsors maximum exposure. All rules and/or clarifications as well as additional instructions given at briefing are deemed to be known and accepted by all participants whether present or not.

4. FISHING AREA

The area covered by our Sponsors Grid:

Northern Boundary:	Latitude	35°50’
Southern Boundary:	Latitude	37°30’
Western Boundary:	Longitude	175°30’
Eastern Boundary:	Longitude	177°

5. TACKLE

All tackle used **MUST** comply with IGFA and NZSFC regulations.
It is the angler’s responsibility to be conversant with these regulations.
Line classes are: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 15, 24, 37, 60kg.

6. ELIGIBLE SPECIES

Billfish (Striped, Blue, & Black Marlin, Spearfish)
Broadbill
Tuna (All species)
Kingfish
Kahawai
Snapper

Tuna, Kingfish, Snapper and Kahawai

Each team can weigh 2 x fish per species per day. Only the team’s overall top 2 heaviest fish per species will count for prizes.

7. MINIMUM FISH WEIGHTS & SIZES:

Striped, Blue, Black Marlin	90kg
Spearfish	
Broadbill	90kg
Kingfish	75cm
Tuna	5kg
Snapper	50cm
Kahawai	50cm

Apart from these restrictions there are no minimum weights, i.e. Fish do **NOT** have to go line weight in this tournament.

8. RADIO

Contest Channel	Channel 61 Gamebase
Boat to Boat	Channel 6, 8 & 65
Coastguard	Channel 63
Continuous Weather	Channel 20
Marina	Channel 61

For safety reasons it is the responsibility of all skippers to ensure that their vessels have operational VHF radios.

9. WEATHER:

The Tournament will not be cancelled due to weather. Whether or not to fish is not the responsibility of the MBGFC or organisers of the event, and must be based solely on the teams own judgement, taking into account the prevailing conditions, the seaworthiness of their vessel, the status of safety equipment on board, and the crews seamanship skills. The tournament is a 3 day event, as little as one day or part thereof constitutes a complete tournament.

10. TIDES

Tides: February 2027				
	Low	**High**	**Low**	**High**
Friday 5th Feb	1.07am	7.36am	1.34pm	7.37pm
Saturday 6th Feb	1.51am	8.18am	2.19pm	8.22pm
Sunday 7th Feb	2.32am	8.56am	3.01pm	

11. FISHING TIMES

Continuous fishing from 5.00am Friday 5th until stop fishing is called on channel 61 at 3.00pm Sunday 7th

12. REPORTING:

(a) Gamebase is not a search and rescue channel!
If you wish to be monitored by Coastguard for reasons of safety at sea you should log a trip report on Ch 63.
In the event of an emergency call Coastguard on Ch 63

(b) Billfish and tuna should be called in to Gamebase on hookup and when boated, tagged or lost giving the vessels name, the area from the Sponsors Gridmap. Smaller species can be notified during the sched.

(c) There will be a sched at 1400 each day when vessels with fish to weigh can contact Gamebase with their catch & ETA.

13. HOOK UP FLAGS

On hooking up a fish which strips a significant amount of line, a signal flag should be displayed from the starboard outrigger, flagpole, aerial or other suitable position.

14. STRIKES (SINGLE AND MULTIPLE):

(i) When a strike occurs, the angler(s) must immediately remove the rod(s) from the rod holder(s), while the crew clear the rest of the gear.

(ii) If the number of fish in a multiple strike equals or exceeds the number of people on the boat, gear may be cleared prior to fighting the fish.

(iii) Once an angler has fought one fish from a multiple strike, whether that fish is caught or lost, they must not present a subsequent fish from the same multiple strike.

Fish left on rod holders while others are fought must be self-disqualified

15. BILLFISH TAGGED AND RELEASED:

Billfish must **NOT** be removed from the water during the tagging and releasing process. **Digital videos clearly showing the tag in place must be shown to the weighmasters when tag cards are presented.**

16. WEIGH IN. AT the Caravan on the wharf.

a) Catch Cards & Tag Cards:
ALL sections **MUST** be filled in **BEFORE** fish are brought to the weighstation. First and last name must be written in full, not initials.

Latitude and longitude must be entered on tag cards.
Team number and angler name must be clear.
PROVIDING FALSE INFORMATION ON CATCH CARDS WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE TOURNAMENT.

b) Along with the **FULLY COMPLETED** catch card and/or tag card each angler must present the rod, reel, lure and or terminal tackle which the fish was caught on, and anything else required by the weighmasters such as gaffs, tailropes, any securing ropes used to transport the fish to the weighstation.
A FISH IS NOT DEEMED TO BE CAUGHT UNTIL IT HAS BEEN WEIGHED (or tagged).

c) Digital video clearly showing the tag in place must be shown to the weighmasters when tag cards are presented.

d) Lines may be tested at the weigh station. Lines that over test will be moved up to the appropriate line class. Under testing lines will **NOT** be moved down.

e) Weighmasters Indemnity
It is the anglers responsibility to present all cards and equipment when weighing in, **NOT** the weighmasters. If any of the required equipment is not in the hands of the weighmasters along with the completed catch card and fish by the close off time, the fish will not be accepted as being on time.
No responsibility will be accepted by MBGFC or its weighmasters for any failure to do so.

f) The weigh station is open from 1600 to 1800 on days one and two. Weighing fish after 1800 is at the discretion of the weighmasters and fish will be included in the following days catch.

g) The weigh station is open from 1430 to 1700 on day three.

On Sunday Feb 7th, unless a fish is being played at stop fishing all anglers must have their fish, catch cards and tackle in the weighmasters hands by 1700. The location of a boat at stop fishing must take into consideration it's steaming and/or towing time to the weigh station. At 1700 an official will collect catch cards from any anglers waiting in a queue at the weigh station. No further catches will be accepted.
In the case of a fish being played at stop fishing radio notification must be given prior to stop fishing. For such a fish to be eligible for prizes in this tournament it must be at the weigh station by 1730.

17. DISPUTES

The MBGFC will appoint a disputes committee to investigate any disputes. Any disputes must be received in writing within 30 minutes of weigh in on the day in question. The disputes committee decision shall be final and binding.

18. PRIZE GIVING:

Held in the Blue Lagoon on Sunday 7th Feb, 1930 sharp.

19. PRIZE ALLOCATION:

Heaviest weighed fish, in the event of a tie, the first fish boated (as per the catch card) wins.

Marlin and Broadbill

Teams may only weigh one of each species in these categories. There is no limit to the number that can be tagged and released. **In the situation where multiple teams have the same points, there will be a draw for the prize.**

Tuna, Kingfish, Snapper and Kahawai

Each team can weigh 2 x fish per species per day in these categories. Only the team's overall top 2 heaviest fish per species will count for prizes.

Cash and prizes awarded to the winning Boats.
(No individual angler prizes).

Prizegiving

Prizegiving will be held rewarding the best catches as follows:

Marlin	**Sponsored by Garmin**	
Heaviest weighed	1st	Cash + $5000 Garmin Cheque
Broadbill	**Sponsored by Garmin**	
Heaviest weighed	1st	Cash + $5000 Garmin Cheque
Billfish	**Sponsored by Kilwell**	
(marlin, broadbill, spearfish)		
Most Points	1st	Cash + Prizes
Tuna	**Sponsored by Dometic**	
(All species by weight)	1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th,5th	Cash + Prizes
Kingfish	**Sponsored by Yamaha**	
	1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th,5th	Cash + Prizes
Snapper	**Sponsored by Daiwa**	
	1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th,5th	Cash + Prizes
Kahawai	**Sponsored by JL Audio**	
	1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th,5th	Cash + Prizes

Any prizes not won will be drawn.

POINTS

Billfish T&R	450pts
Spearfish T&R	100pts

Weighed Billfish and Broadbill calculation. $\frac{\text{Fish weight X 100}}{\text{Line weight}}$

N.B. Prizes presented in error at Prizegiving remain the property of the Club and must be returned for correct allocation upon notification within seven days.

In addition to the above allocated prizes, spot prizes will be drawn and awarded on briefing night and prizegiving, you must be in attendance to claim a spot prize.

$5000 Garmin Electronics Package / Last Boat Standing drawn prize:
There will be 2 draws on the briefing night and another 3 draws on the Saturday night. You must be there to win!

20. WHARF:
Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club Inc will not be responsible for any harbour, wharf or berthage charges.

21. TERM DEFINITIONS
"TAIL ROPES" - A tail rope is any rope used in either or both the capture of the fish and securing the fish for transport to the weighstation. **NO** "Tail rope" may exceed 9.14m in length.
"RULES" - Includes all rules written herein, IGFA Rules, NZSFC Rules, MBGFC Fishing Rules and/or any changes and additions made by MBGFC during the Tournament.
"WEIGHT" - The weight of a fish as deemed correct by both the weighmasters and the angler signed off on the catch card.
"CAUGHT" - A fish is not deemed to be caught until it is weighed or tagged.

Optional Sweepstakes, winning boat takes all per category.

In the unlikely event that no fish are caught in any one of these species, the sweepstake money will be drawn from those teams entered in that species sweepstake.

Sweepstake costs

$100.00	**Most points Billfish and Broadbill.**
$50.00	**Heaviest Tuna**
$50.00	**Heaviest Kingfish**
$50.00	**Heaviest Snapper**
$50.00	**Heaviest Kahawai**

GOOD LUCK AND GOOD FISHING